Mr. K. J. Antony.—Whether a committee can be useful or not, as I think under the present administration a committee is not necessary, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

6. Survey of the Backwater Regions.

President.—Mr. P. Krishna Menon's resolution.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—This is the resolution that stands in my name:

"With a view to the expansion of cultvable lands in the State, this Council recommends to the Government that a survey of the backwater regions may be undertaken to ascertain the extent of poramboke lands lying under water and not useful for traffic, being shallow and which may be used either for dry or wet cultivation".

I don't propose to inflict a speech upon the Council, because I am happy to find that the principle underlying this resolution is a principle which is accepted by Government so far as land is concerned. Therefore, my resolution is only a request to extend that principle to water also. Now only one word by way of support to the resolution. It is a well known fact that the paddy produced in the land is hardly sufficient for 5 months in the year. For the remaining 7 months we have to resort to other places for the supply of paddy. It is no doubt one of the fundamental principles of progress and prosperity that a State ought to be self-contained and self-satisfying so far as their requirements are concerned. To meet the increasing consumption, because I know the population is also increasing, I think it necessary that we should bring more and more land under cultivation. It is to ascertain the possibility, so far as the backwater regions are concerned, to extend cultivation that this request and resolution for the survey of the backwater regions is suggested.

Now, as to the practicability of the thing or rather to the absolute necessity of a survey, I may be permitted to say one word and it is this. Unless we get a comprehensive grasp of the area available, we will not be able to ascertain how much or what part of it can be utilised for cultivation. Because in these backwater regions we have to forestall the necessities of cultivation and traffic by water. Unless we get a comprehensive idea we will not be able to say how much can be utilized and how much is to be left alone for making due provisions for canal navigation and boat traffic. I do not wish to take up the time, by going over statistics to show what a large portion will be available if such a survey is undertaken, and the Government, I am sure, will be anxious to utilise every inch of land that will be available for cultivation

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purposes; because we see the absolute necessity for increasing the food supply.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is cultivation restricted to paddy.?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Both dry and wet cultivation.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I second the resolution.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—A survey of the backwater regions had already been conducted and maps prepared of all areas available for assignment. Portions of those lands have already been disposed off and other portions remain yet to be disposed off. Before they are disposed, I do not know whether it is necessary to conduct a further survey.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Are you sure of that ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—In every Taluk there is a map prepared and kept of all areas available for assignment. If there are further areas, they will also be assigned.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—When was it ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I cannot say exactly when.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—The backwater conditions change every year. They become shallow, shallower and so on.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—When the time comes for a further survey it will be undertaken. We do not object to the principle stated; but the question is whether it is time to undertake it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The whole backwater is a delta formation.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Only at periodical intervals these surveys can be conducted.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran—Is there a comprehensive survey?

I know that in some places lands have been surveyed and lands have been assigned. Are you sure that there is such a survey of the extensive backwater to the west of Kadakkara. There is the big bund. Are you sure that it has been surveyed and any portion of it assigned?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Some portions have been assigned to Ayyamppilly Devaswam.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That is Kuzuppilly.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—A portion is given to the Ayyampilly Devaswam, another is given to a Christian gentleman, and a third to Paliyam.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I don't think there is. Subject to correction I may say, from Ayyamppilly to the north to the limit of the State there have been a systematic survey and there is one straight line.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Even on this side also.

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Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—This side have you conducted the survey? It has not been brought into effect. If lands are available, people will jump at it. You won't find any difficulty in disposing.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Some portions are deep water and some portions are shallow.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Of course, the matter may be looked into.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—By way of information, I want to know what exactly is meant by assignable area. What is the standard fixed for determining whether an area available is assignable or not?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I cannot say now what were the considerations which influenced the Revenue officers in determining an area to be an assignable area. There might have been several considerations. For instance, the extent, the width or the breadth of the channel, the deep or shallow character of the area and the regularity of the coast line. We don't generally allow coast lines to be made irregular. And very deep portions are not made available for assignment as it will be difficult to reclaim them. These are the considerations which might have influenced the Revenue officer in determining the assignable area.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—In other words, have you fixed the area required for traffic or canal communications?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The assignable area has been fixed. The same standard does not apply to all the localities. There are several considerations?

President.—Any of the Hon'ble Members wishing to speak?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I do not want to press it to a division.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

7. Straightening the Ernakulam Foreshore Line.

President.—Mr. P. Krishna Menon.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—This resolution refers to a portion of Ernakulam. The resolution runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the growing demand for House sites and open places for recreation purposes in Ernakulam, steps may be taken to straighten the Ernakulam foreshore line at least from the Huzur jetty southwards up to Thevara canal by putting up a granite rubble bund and to reclaim the portions of the backwater thus enclosed."

I said advisedly that it refers to a portion of the Ernakulam backwater frontage because I know that some scheme is under preparation for reclaiming a portion or rather a major portion

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